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Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 IO-13 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 CEQ-01 EPA-01 INT-05 SMI-01
DODE-00 DLOS-09 PA-01 OIC-02 H-01 SP-02 ICAE-00
SSO-00 EB-08 /075 W
----------110419 162307Z /14
O 162228Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 521

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS SENV IWC-1, PE
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

REF: (A) STATE 151299, (B) STATE 153990

1. ECONOFF JUNE 15 CALLED UPON FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR OF MARITIME SOVEREIGNTY JORGE CHAVEZ SOTO AND HIS DEPUTY ENRIQUE ROMAN TO INFORM THEM THAT DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IS ON VERGE OF ISSUING CERTIFICATION THAT PERUVIAN WHALING ACTIVITIES DIMINISH EFFECTIVENESS OF IWC CONSERVATION REGIME. HE REVIEWED WITH THEM PROVISIONS OF PELLY AMENDMENT AND POINTED OUT, AS PER PARA 2 REFTEL, THAT COMMERCE DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION COULD BE AVERTED IF GOP JOINED IWC AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT GOP NEED NOT WAIT UNTIL IWC MEETING, BUT THAT IT CAN JOIN IWC SIMPLY BY DEPOSITING RATIFICATION WITH USG.

2. CHAVEZ AND ROMAN, BOTH OF WHOM DEMONSTRATED FAMILIARITY WITH THE MATTER, REPEATED EARLIER GOP ASSURANCES THAT PERU'S INTENTION IS TO JOIN IWC AT JUNE 26-30 LONDON MEETING. PERU'S CONCERN, HOWEVER, IS THAT BY JOINING IWC IT WILL HAVE TO ADHERE TO IWC QUOTAS IMMEDIATELY, WHICH WOULD MEAN
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CLOSING PERU'S WHALING PLANT, CAUSING UNEMPLOYMENT OF SEVERAL HUNDRED WORKERS. CHAVEZ ASSERTED THAT IN CURRENT ECONOMIC/POLITICAL SITUATION OF COUNTRY, GOP COULD NOT RISK TAKING SUCH ACTION. CONSEQUENTLY, GOP HOPES TO BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE GRADUALLY DIMINISHING QUOTAS FOR PERU THAT WOULD GIVE GOP TIME TO REDIRECT ACTIVITIES OF WHALING COMPANY TO OTHER OPERATIONS. CHAVEZ SAID THAT

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INITIAL QUOTA UNDER THIS SCHEME WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN PRESENT PERUVIAN WHALE CATCH, AND WOULD BE STAGED DOWNWARD TO ZERO WITHIN SHORT PERIOD. HE DID NOT INDICATE GOP'S THINKING REGARDING THIS PERIOD.

3. CHAVEZ SAID THAT GOP DELEGATION WOULD GO TO LONDON WITH PROPOSAL ALONG ABOVE LINES AND THAT IF QUOTA QUESTION CAN BE WORKED OUT GOP WILL JOIN IWC DURING JUNE 26-30 MEETING. HE REQUESTED THAT DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NOT ISSUE CERTIFICATION BEFORE IWC MEETING IN ORDER TO GIVE PERU OPPORTUNITY TO DEAL WITH MATTER WITHIN THE COMMISSION. HE ALSO ASKED THAT USG GIVE AS MUCH SUPPORT AS POSSIBLE TO PERU IN THESE EFFORTS WITH IWC.

4. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION: WE BELIEVE GOP SINCERE IN ITS INTENTION TO JOIN IWC ASAP BUT FEARS CONSEQUENCES OF RESTRICTING WHALING OPERATIONS. WITH UNEMPLOYMENT/ UNDEREMPLOYMENT IN PERU RUNNING AROUND 50 PERCENT OF WORK FORCE, LAYOFFS IN VOLATILE FISHING SECTOR, WHICH SHUTDOWN OF WHALING WOULD OCCASION, ARE POLITICALLY UN-PALATABLE. THUS GOP PROPOSAL FOR PHASING OUT OF WHALING OPERATIONS APPEARS TO BE REASONABLE SOLUTION. PERUVIANS UNDER OUR PRODDING HAVE MOVED CLOSER TO DECISION TO JOIN IWC AND APPEAR TO BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE QUOTA QUESTION WITH SOME FLEXIBILITY. THUS WE RECOMMEND USG SUPPORT
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GOP INITIATIVE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. AT THE LEAST WE HOPE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WILL NOT MAKE CERTIFICATION UNTIL AFTER IWC MEETING AND THEN ONLY IF IT OBVIOUS PERU WILL NOT JOIN IWC.

DECON 6-16-79. SHLAUDEMAN

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Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780651/aaaabruy.tel
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Status: NATIVE
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